

**Exeter River Local Advisory Committee
c/o 156 Water Street
Exeter, NH 03833**

January 12, 2009

Rivers Management and Advisory Committee
c/o NH DES
P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Dear Rivers Management and Advisory Committee Members:

We the members of ERLAC would like to suggest that the tidal Squamscott River be included in the RMPP. Before any formal action on our part however, we recognize that the Squamscott would be the first salt river to be proposed for the program and thus this letter.

Our review of RSA 483:1 Statement of Policy finds that the language does not discriminate between salt and fresh rivers with the possible exception of "public water supply". RSA 483:2 appears to have nothing that might exclude salt rivers. Assuming for a moment the foregoing analysis is close to the mark, we would offer the following:

New Hampshire, the State, was nurtured in the salt rivers of the Piscataqua Watershed. It's "commerce, industry, tourism" began in the watershed. It is our view that the "viability of New Hampshire rivers as valued economic and social assets for the benefit of present and future generations" must be supported be they salt or fresh. We hope you will agree.

The Squamscott River carries the waters of the Exeter River from the falls in downtown Exeter past Stratham and Newfields to the Great Bay.

ERLAC would propose to undertake discussions with the towns with the intent of preparing an application for protected river status of the Squamscott as soon as we hear that you think this is appropriate.

Sincerely,



Donald Clement, Chair

CC: Steve Couture, RMPP, NHDES